



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
**OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU**

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Patricia Michalak, MA  
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

**YSB Advisory Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 14, 2012**  
**12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall**  
**Conf. Rm. B**

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator  
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Social Worker  
Frank Perrotti, Resident  
Kelsey Campbell, Social Work student  
Eileen Griffin, Resident  
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor

**I. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

**II. Approval of minutes**

- Meeting minutes from January 10, 2011 were accepted.

**III. Reports**

- The Advisory Board recommended a new position to be created for Youth Service Bureau as there is a strong need for additional clinical services.
- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
  - Review of Quarterly Report. Through the Mansfield Holiday Fund, 151 individuals received cash assistance, totaling to \$12,000.
  - Mayor Betsy Paterson has begun reaching out to the community for donations to the Mansfield Community Fund, which supports camperships for children.
  - Kevin presented the Department of Human Services proposed goals and objectives for the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year which includes the budget narrative for Youth Services. Youth Services goal is to sustain the present level of services provided to youth and families by maintaining and building

the capacity of the program to respond to an increased demand for services. Objectives for Youth Services include exploring hiring an additional licensed practitioner by September of 2012 and developing additional referral sources of available volunteers. The committee supports the goals and objectives set for Youth Services.

- Coordinator's Report - Patricia Michalak

- New Beginnings: Holidays are over. All of our students are back, and our programs are in full swing!
- UConn Baseball Team: 16 players from the UConn Baseball Team joined us for Big Friends. These players spent the hour playing games and building relationships with our Little Friends. Some players sat in on the Parents Group and shared their motivation for becoming a college athlete, what made them choose UConn, and the steps they took to get where they are. Parents, little friends, and the players all had a great time, and we were able to gain some new volunteers for Cope and Big Friends.
- Boys Group: Boys Group began on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is an after school group for middle school boys to build positive relationships while learning skills to manage conflict. There are currently 7 boys attending the group, 2 of which are receiving youth employment. The group is overseen by Kelsey and includes a male UConn student, 2 male Eastern students, and an E.O. Smith male senior. The group will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons through April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Girls Group: The Girls Group has begun meeting for the Spring Semester. The 7 girls and 3 leaders have become a tight knit group. The Girls Group will be attending the Peers Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) Conference at MCC in March. The girls are able to choose from 3 sets of workshops that focus on effective communication, stopping mean behavior, and advocating for change within their school and community. Last year's Girls Group attended PAWS last spring and had a great time. We look forward to the opportunity with a new group.
- Cope: Through the UConn Baseball Team and mentor referrals, we have gained additional volunteers for the Cope program.
- Big Friends: We have decided to award the Big Friends coordinator Tara O'Neil at the Volunteer Recognition ceremony for her outstanding work with Big Friends. Tara has provided us with over 75 volunteers for Big Friends, making the group a huge success.

- New Volunteer: We are delighted to have Annie Zinn joining us for the spring semester. She has experience in journalism and has been a great help in creating flyers and programs for our groups and the Volunteer Recognition.
- Red Cross Shelter Management Training: Pat Michalak and student worker Stephanie Steward both received training and certification.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- None

#### **V. New Business**

- Review of NECASA Grant application for funds.
  - NECASA is the local prevention council for the northeast region of the state. Funds provided by this grant are used to support the Cope program. Last year Mansfield Youth Services requested and was rewarded \$3,208.00. The committee came to an unanimous vote to request \$3,208.00 for the 2012-2013 year.
- Review of American Community Survey Data.
  - The American Community Survey is a federal survey that is completed every year on the towns of Connecticut. The data from the survey is beneficial in breaking down the community in terms of age, income, and family demographics. Youth Services is interested in how this data can help the department address poverty in Mansfield. When families are experiencing economic hardships, the corresponding stressors effect the children both at home and in school. These children require additional services. Kevin Grunwald shared that Mansfield will be providing a Summer Food Service Program at Mansfield Middle School. Children benefiting from this service include, yet not limited to, kids enrolled in summer school and camps. This program would benefit from involvement with Youth Services as families and children in need could be recognized and offered additional services.

#### **VI. Other**

- None

#### **VII. Adjournment**

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 13, 2012
- Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM
- Minutes submitted by Kelsey Campbell